

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A facsimile device that transmits image information to a destination, comprising:

an electronic-mail control unit used for transmitting the image information in an electronic-mail
10 format to said destination through a computer network;
a real-time network control unit used for transmitting the image information to said destination while said facsimile device and said destination are connected on line through the computer network; and
15 a destination table, to which a destination address and a transmission method are registered respectively for each destination and each destination address, said destination address being used for transmitting the image information through the computer
20 network, said transmission method indicating one of said electronic-mail control unit and said real-time network control unit,

wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address by use of
25 either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-

time network control unit indicated by said transmission method if said destination address is specified as the destination.

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2. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a facsimile control unit used for transmitting the image information to the destination through a telephone line network by following a fixed facsimile transmission procedure, wherein said facsimile device registers a destination number or the destination address, for said each destination, and the transmission method for said each destination address, in said destination table, said destination number being used for transmitting the image information through the telephone line network.

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3. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a transmission specifying unit specifying either said electronic-mail control unit or

said real-time network control unit, wherein said facsimile device sets the transmission method corresponding to said destination address, to said transmission specifying unit, switches said transmission method by using said transmission specifying unit if necessary, and transmits the image information to said destination address by use of either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit specified by said transmission specifying unit.

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4. The facsimile device as claimed in claim

15 1, wherein said destination table includes a first table, to which the transmission method is registered for said each destination, and a second table, to which the transmission method is registered for each predetermined condition, and said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address by using said transmission method registered in said second table as a first priority if a predetermined condition is detected.

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5. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a document-size detecting unit detecting a document size of a document, wherein said facsimile device registers said document size as the
5 predetermined condition, and determines the transmission method according to said document size.

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6. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said facsimile device registers a value of said destination address as the predetermined condition, and determines the transmission method according to said
15 value of the destination address.

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7. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said facsimile device registers a data size of the image information as the predetermined condition, and determines the transmission method according to said data size.

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8. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
4, further comprising a significance specifying unit
specifying a degree of significance of a document,
wherein said facsimile device registers the degree of
5 significance of the document as the predetermined
condition, and determines the transmission method
according to said degree of significance if said degree
of significance of the document is specified by said
significance specifying unit.

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9. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
15 4, wherein said facsimile device registers a network
condition of said computer network as the predetermined
condition, and determines the transmission method
according to said network condition.

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10. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
4, wherein said facsimile device registers a global
25 address communication as the predetermined condition,

and determines the transmission method depending on whether said facsimile device performs the global address communication.

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11. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said destination table stores the destination number, a first destination address used for transmitting the image information in the electronic-mail format through the computer network, and a second destination address used for transmitting the image information while said facsimile device and said destination are connected on line through the computer network, for said each destination, wherein said facsimile device displays said destination number, said first destination address and said second destination address, makes a user select one of said destination number, said first destination address and said second destination address, and transmits the image information to the destination number or the destination address selected by the user, by using one of said electronic-mail control unit and said real-time network control unit that corresponds to said destination number or said

destination address selected by the user.

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12. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a document-size specifying unit specifying a document size of a document to be transmitted, wherein said destination table stores a
10 first destination address used for transmitting the image information in the electronic-mail format through the computer network, and a second destination address used for transmitting the image information while said facsimile device and the destination are connected on
15 line through the computer network, for said each destination, and said facsimile device transmits the document to said destination by use of either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit corresponding to the document size of said
20 document specified by said document-size specifying unit to be outputted at said destination.

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13. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said facsimile device transmits the document to said destination by use of said electronic-mail control unit if the document size of said document is A4.

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14. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address by use of either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit corresponding to said destination address, if said destination address is specified as the destination, and said transmission method is not registered in said destination table.

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15. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address by use of said real-time network control unit if said destination address is a local address.

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16. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said facsimile device calculates a data size of the image information read from a document, and transmits the image information to said destination by use of either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit corresponding to said data size.

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17. A facsimile device that transmits image information to a destination, comprising:

an electronic-mail control unit used for transmitting the image information in an electronic-mail format to said destination through a computer network;

a real-time network control unit used for transmitting the image information to said destination while said facsimile device and said destination are connected on line through the computer network; and

a transmission specifying unit specifying one of said electronic-mail control unit and said real-time network control unit as a communication control unit in accordance with a destination address of said destination,

wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address by use of the communication control unit specified by said transmission specifying unit in a case in which said
5 destination address is selected.

- 10 18. A facsimile device that transmits image information to a destination, comprising:
a facsimile control unit used for transmitting the image information to said destination through a telephone line network by following a fixed facsimile
15 transmission procedure;
an electronic-mail control unit used for transmitting the image information in an electronic-mail format to said destination through a computer network;
a real-time network control unit used for
20 transmitting the image information to said destination while said facsimile device and said destination are connected on line through the computer network; and
a direct/memory transmission specifying unit specifying a transmission method in accordance with a
25 destination address of said destination, for each

destination, said transmission method indicating one of direct transmission and memory transmission,

wherein said direct/memory transmission specifying unit can further specify usage of said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit for each transmission method, and said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination by use of either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit corresponding to said transmission method if said destination address is selected.

19. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address, by use of said real-time network control unit if the transmission method specified by said direct/memory transmission specifying unit is the direct transmission, or said electronic-mail control unit if said transmission method is the memory transmission.

20. A method of selecting a transmission method for transmitting image information from a facsimile device to a destination, comprising the steps of:

- 5 specifying the transmission method, that is, one of an electronic-mail transmission method and a real-time transmission method, for each destination address used for transmitting the image information through a computer network; and
- 10 transmitting the image information to a destination address through the computer network by use of the transmission method corresponding to said destination address if said destination address is specified as the destination.

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21. A method of selecting a transmission method for transmitting image information from a facsimile device to a destination, comprising the steps of:

- registering a destination number used for transmitting the image information through a telephone
- 25 line network or a destination address used for

transmitting the image information through a computer network, for each destination in a destination table;

registering a transmission method, that is, one of an electronic-mail transmission method and a
5 real-time transmission method, for each destination address registered in said destination table; and

transmitting the image information to the destination address by use of the transmission method corresponding to said destination address, if said
10 destination address is specified as the destination.

22. The method as claimed in claim 21,
15 further comprising the steps of:

setting the transmission method corresponding the destination address, if said destination address is specified as the destination;

20 switching the transmission method if necessary; and

transmitting the image information to said destination address by use of said transmission method.